

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

INR-07 CIAE-00 EB-07 L-03 DODE-00 TRSE-00 /079 W

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R 110107Z NOV 76

FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 632

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5179

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, BG, IN

SUBJ: FARAKKA BARRAGE

REF: USUN 5042

1. INDIAN PERMREP JAIPAL INFORMED MISOFF THAT IBRD'S MCNAMARA WAS TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH GOI REPS IN DELHI ON NOVEMBER 10. MEANWHILE, HE SAID BDG HAD RECENTLY MADE A PROPOSAL TO GOI REGARDING LONG-TERM SOLUTION OF FARAKKA ISSUE, INVOLVING POSSIBLE EVENTUAL CONSTRUCTION OF LINKAGE BETWEEN GANGES AND ANOTHER RIVER IN BD. JAIPAL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT BDG PROPOSAL MIGHT ALSO INCLUDE STUDY OF POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION OF STORAGE SITES IN UPPER REACHES OF GANGES AND ITS TRIBUTARIES, BUT INDICATED UNCERTAINTY ON THIS POINT.

2. ACCORDING TO JAIPAL, FONSEC JAGAT MEHTA WILL BE COMING TO NEW YORK TO HANDLE DISCUSSION OF FARAKKA ITEM. (WE UNDERSTAND MEHTA IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE HERE EVENING NOVEMBER 11) JAIPAL THOUGHT HE MIGHT NOT HAVE ACCOUNT OF GOI TALKS WITH MCNAMARA ON FARAKKA BEFORE MEHTA ARRIVES.

3. JAIPAL INDICATED THAT BD PERMREP KAISER HAD
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APPROACHED HIM PRIVATELY ON FARAKKA FOR THE FIRST TIME

ON NOVEMBER 9. IT APPEARS THAT BOTH PARTIES HERE
WOULD LIKE TO AVOID CONFRONTATIONAL DEBATE IN SPC BUT
HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO COME UP WITH A MUTUALLY
ACCEPTABLE FORMULA. ASSUMING THAT MCNAMARA'S TALKS IN DACCA
AND DELHI HAVE GONE WELL ON STUDY OF POSSIBLE LONG-
TERM SOLUTIONS, PROBLEM OF SHORT-TERM FLOW IN LEAN SEASON
STILL HAS TO BE DEALT WITH. JAIPAL ASSUMES THAT PREVIOUS
GOI PROPOSAL FOR 50-50 SHARING WOULD STILL BE VALID,
DESPITE ITS EARLIER REJECTION BY BDG. (JAIPAL CONFIRMED
THAT 50-50 PROPOSAL RELATED TO WATER THAT GOI COULD WITHDRAW
FROM GANGES AT FARAKKA ON ONE HAND, AND VOLUME OF WATER
IN GANGES AT POINT WHERE IT ENTERS BD TERRITORY, ON OTHER
HAND -- THE LATTER INCLUDING PERHAPS SOME 8,000 CUSECS
THROUGH REGENERATION BELOW FARAKKA.) ACCORDING TO JAIPAL,
SEVERAL THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES (HE MENTIONED ALGERIA,
GHANA AND SRI LANKA) ARE WORKING TO AVERT CONFRONTATION
BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH IN SPC. MISOFF INFORMED HIM THAT
U.S. HOPES BOTH PARTIES CAN WORK OUT MUTUALLY AGREEABLE
FORMULATION AND NOTED THAT SOME URGENT WORK STILL
SEEMS REQUIRED IN LIGHT OF SCHEDULED OPENING OF SPC
DEBATE ON NOVEMBER 15. JAIPAL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT TIMING IS
BECOMING TIGHT AND WONDERED WHETHER IT MADE SENSE TO PROCEED
ON SCHEDULE FOR DEBATE IN LIGHT OF DISCUSSIONS NOW GOING
ON WITH MCNAMARA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, FARAKKA BARRAGE, WATER DIVERSION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN05179
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760420-0041
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761156/aaaabwke.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 USUN NEW YORK 5042
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FARAKKA BARRAGE
TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006